

Medico-Ethical.

The advice given in this column for the assistance of members is based on medico-ethical principles generally recognized by the profession, but must not be taken as representing direct findings of the Central Ethical Committee.

A HOTEL DOCTOR'S FEES.

HOTEL DOCTOR writes that he is frequently sent for by the proprietor of a large boarding-house to attend his guests, and they often leave without paying him. The proprietor wishes to prevent this, and offers to book the accounts and collect them, charging our correspondent 25 per cent. for doing this, and guaranteeing payment. Our correspondent asks whether there would be any ethical objection to this arrangement, and if not whether he might pay the proprietor a commission fee for collecting the accounts without receiving any guarantee, and he asks what percentage would be reasonable? If neither of these propositions is approved, he wishes to know what he ought to do? There is no arrangement with the proprietor that our correspondent should be called in to all his guests, and as a matter of fact he is not so employed.

* * We can see no objection to the proposal of the proprietor from the point of view of medical ethics.

LADY BOUNTIFUL AND POOR LAW MEDICAL OFFICER.

DILEMMA.—While X. was at liberty to settle in practice where he pleased, his action in allowing himself to be set up in opposition to the district medical officer has an ugly look; there may be circumstances which justify the lady in the action she took, and X. in giving her his support; but as we are ignorant of them we can express no opinion.

Public Health

AND

POOR LAW MEDICAL SERVICES.

GUARDIANS AND MEDICAL OFFICERS.

THE widespread dissatisfaction with the existing conditions of Poor Law medical relief sometimes finds expression in utterances which are both impolitic and unjust. An example was afforded at a recent meeting of the Board of Guardians of the Basingstoke Union, which had proposed to appoint one medical officer and public vaccinator for the whole union. The Local Government Board objected to this arrangement, and the Chairman (Sir R. Rycroft, Bart.), after expressing a confident opinion that the Local Government Board was wrong, proceeded to make an uncalled-for attack upon the medical officers of the union. According to the report in the *Hants and Berks Gazette*, he said that the guardians knew that as a rule the work was not properly done, and that the medical officers were paid a great deal too much for what they did, but not enough for what ought to be done. He considered that one medical officer, debarred from private practice but receiving an adequate salary, should be appointed for the workhouse and for Basingstoke and the immediate neighbourhood. In making this suggestion Sir R. Rycroft would appear to express approval of the report of the Minority of the Royal Commission on the Poor Laws, but he clearly speaks with insufficient knowledge, since both that report and the report of the Majority distinctly affirm that the work of the medical officers is as well done as it can be under the defective conditions for which guardians themselves are responsible. The persons at present arraigned at the bar of public opinion are Sir R. Rycroft and his fellow guardians, and it would be as well that the gentlemen mentioned should recognize this and speak with greater modesty on future occasions.

THE REMOVAL TO HOSPITAL OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

A COMMUNICATION was read at the meeting of the Wharfedale Union Joint Isolation Hospital Committee, held on June 30th, from the Ilkley District Council, asking that a regulation to the effect that the fever van should not be allowed to fetch patients from Ilkley after 6 p.m. should be rescinded. Dr. Hyslop, medical officer to the hospital, is reported to have said that if the regulation was withdrawn it would mean that the medical men of Ilkley would keep all their patients until night, as they were afraid that if the van were seen going through the streets the reputation of Ilkley would suffer. After discussion, the committee decided not to accede to the request of the Ilkley Council. Although it was stated that really urgent cases were attended to even after the hour fixed, it appeared doubtful whether it would not be better to remove fever cases after 6 p.m., rather than during the day time.

The Services.

RESPONSIBILITY FOR ROYAL ARMY MEDICAL CORPS (T.F.) UNITS.

It is notified from the War Office that in peace the responsibility for all matters, including mobilization arrangements, connected with the Royal Army Medical Corps units and personnel of the Territorial Force will be vested in the administrative medical officers of divisions.

REGULATIONS FOR ADMISSION TO THE ROYAL ARMY MEDICAL CORPS.

THE official copy of the "Regulations for Admission to the Royal Army Medical Corps, 1909," issued with the Army Orders dated June 1st, may now be had in separate form, and may be obtained through any bookseller at the price of one penny.

ROYAL ARMY MEDICAL COLLEGE.

THE following is the list of prize winners at the recent examination at the termination of the junior course at the college.

Rank and Name.	Corps.	Prizes.
Lieutenant H. S. Ranken ...	R.A.M. Corps.	Herbert.
" " ...	"	De Chaumont.
" " ...	"	Tulloch Memorial.
" " ...	"	Ranald Martin.
" " ...	"	Marshall Webb.
" J. A. Manifold ...	"	First Montefiore.
" C. L. Franklin ...	"	Second Montefiore.
" A. M. S. Jukes ...	Indian Medical Service	Parkes Memorial.
" B. Gale ...	"	Fayrer Memorial.

Universities and Colleges.

UNIVERSITY OF LONDON.

GUY'S HOSPITAL MEDICAL SCHOOL.

Prize Day.

THE annual garden party and distribution of prizes took place on July 8th in the afternoon. The hospital, the Residential College, the Wills Library, the Gordon Museum, and the school buildings were open to inspection, and refreshments were served in the quadrangle and on the terrace, where a band was playing. The prizes were distributed by the Duke of Devonshire, and a large number of visitors were present. The Dean's report on the work of the school in the past year showed that it had been of a very satisfactory character. The entry of students between October, 1907, and October, 1908, was approximately the same as in the foregoing twelve months. Since the date at which the policy of taking dental pupils for the period of mechanical apprenticeship had been adopted, the expansion of the Dental School had been so rapid that the handing over to it of the existing chemical and physical laboratories in the Petersham Block and the building of fresh laboratories for the medical school, was under consideration. The principal prizewinners were as follows: The *Beaney Prize* for Pathology (£34), Mr. E. L. M. Lobb; the *Michael Harris Prize* for Anatomy (£10), Mr. W. E. Tanner; the *Hilton Prize* for Dissections (£5), Mr. G. Marshall; the *Wooldridge Memorial Prize* for Physiology (£10), Mr. W. S. George; the *Golding-Bird Gold Medal* and Scholarship in Bacteriology (£20), Mr. W. H. Catto; the Junior Proficiency Prizes, Messrs. W. E. Tanner (£20) and W. S. George (£15); the *Treasurer's Gold Medal* for Clinical Medicine, H. I. Jan Mahomed.

A CORRECTION.

In the abstract of the proceedings of the meeting of the Senate on May 19th, prepared from the *London University Gazette*, and published in the *BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL* of June 12th, 1909, p. 1460, under the heading "Brown Sanatory Institution," the office to which Mr. Allan was reappointed was given as veterinary assistant; it should have been veterinary surgeon.

UNIVERSITY OF DURHAM COLLEGE OF MEDICINE.

Reconstituted Court of Governors.

THE first meeting of the Court of Governors of the College of Medicine under its new constitution was held at the College on July 7th.

Sir George Hare Philipson was unanimously elected Chairman, and Councillor W. J. Sanderson, J.P., Vice-Chairman. Mr. Cecil A. Cochrane was appointed Treasurer of the College, and the following Governors were elected members of the College Council, namely: The Very Rev. the Dean of Durham